

## St. Jude Catholic School upgrades to the cloud with Google for Education without raising tuition



### About St. Jude Catholic School

- 1st – 8th grade, Private School
- Serves approximately 500 students
- Located in Indianapolis, Indiana
- [Website](#)

### What they wanted to do

- Teach students how to use technology to learn, work and collaborate
- Implement affordable technology solutions, while preventing the need to raise tuition

### What they did

- Introduced Google Apps for Education, Chromebooks, and Google Classroom for all students and teachers

### What they accomplished

- Provided technology for all students without raising costs
- Put technology in the center of the classroom
- Managed solution independently without hiring an IT team



### Background

[St. Jude Catholic School](#) is home to 500 students in Indianapolis, Indiana. As a part of their mission statement, the faculty at St. Jude Catholic School is committed to helping students in 1st -8th grades grow and achieve academically. The school's administrative and faculty teams view technology as an important piece to achieve this goal.

"Students need a solid hold on technology to be successful, professionally and academically. At St. Jude, we're dedicated to preparing our kids for the future, which is why we're working toward fully integrating technology in the classroom," says Joe Shelburn, Principal at St. Jude Catholic School.

### Challenge

Many private schools struggle to upgrade their technology or provide students with devices without drastically raising tuition. The team at St. Jude's Catholic School knew the importance of teaching students how to use technology to learn, work, and communicate — all important skills for college and future jobs — but wanted to keep tuition as low as possible.

*"We're a tuition-based school and having the ability to expose our students to advanced technology, such as cloud computing, without making drastic increases to tuition is a huge benefit. This isn't possible with any other solution."*

*— Joe Shelburn, principal at St. Jude Catholic School*

### Solution

After evaluating a few different solutions for cloud storage, email, and devices – including Microsoft Office 365, Outlook, and full laptop devices – nothing was comparable to what Google offered free of cost. In 2012, the school's administrative team decided on [Google for Education](#) tools, including Google Classroom and [Chromebooks](#), for all 500 students and over 35 teacher and staff. The decision was easy, says Shelburn, as Google was the most affordable and easy-to-use option for both students and staff.

### Benefits

#### Providing technology for all students without raising costs

Google Apps for Education is free for schools, and Chromebooks cost a fraction of what the other tablets, desktops, and laptops on the market cost. With the funds saved on Google for Education tools, St Jude Catholic is able to provide more digital learning content for students.

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### Centering the classroom around technology

At St. Jude Catholic, every student can take a Chromebook home so they're able to access their **Gmail** accounts and learning resources stored in the cloud at any time, from anywhere. Chromebooks are easy to use: a student just needs to log in once to access all of their work, picking up right where they left off. They're also durable devices, commonly lasting up to 4 years before needing to be replaced.

With **Google Classroom**, students can access their homework assignments and any digital content their teachers have shared with them from any device, at any time. One science teacher at St. Jude uses Classroom to share interactive content, including science videos and games, with her students to engage them with the content, and uses Google Forms to quiz students on their understanding of a given topic. When students take a quiz in Forms, the teacher can instantly gauge their understanding of the material. With games and videos, students are able to learn by interacting with the content at their own pace, having fun at the same time! Educational games are their favorite Chromebook activity.

### Managing technology independently

Google Apps for Education is intuitive and easy for teachers and staff to use, thus eliminating the need to hire an IT team to manage and support their technology program. The customer support resources Google provides are easy to access and understand. Shelburn says that while they almost never have technical issues, when they do, they've been able to resolve the issue themselves simply by accessing Google's online support materials.

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### Google for Education

A solution built for learning and designed for the classroom that includes easy-to-manage affordable devices like Chromebooks and tablets, a "mission control" for class through Google Classroom, a powerful suite of productivity tools with Google Apps for Education, and new ways to engage students like Google Expeditions. Together these tools help teachers save time, increase collaboration, and inspire curiosity while students discover and learn together on any device, from anywhere.

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